

2007 Ecological Principals/Processes Committee Summary and Recommendations

Discuss Ecological Principles, Processes, and Protocols

Principal:

Soil and vegetation interact to create an ecological response, that response can be altered by management

Process:

Soil properties such as water availability affect plant development; changes to the soil properties through management can affect process

Discuss Protocols

Interagency Ecological Site Description Manual, 2007

Members on the steering team have shifted due to retirements

Policy being removed from the Manual and published separately – July, 2007 for wide review

Manual is being finalized by the end of the FY2007

Terrestrial Ecological Unit Inventory Technical Guide (TEUI Guide), 2005

NSSH supported - correlation

Ecological Classification

Premap procedures

Progressive mapping procedures/protocol – integrated type locations and descriptions

Existing soil surveys - updates

Mapping Products

What kinds of products are we expecting to be produced?

Interpretations

What new interpretations are needed?

Wednesday Presentations to help understand ecological needs for soil survey:

Forest Service National Hierarchy of Ecological Units and Use

Dynamic Soil Properties and Ecological Processes

Interagency Ecological Site Description Manual

Mapping Dynamic Vegetation Properties into Web Soil Survey

Discussions:

What temporal remapping/scheduling is needed for ecological mapping and what scale?

What is the role of state and transition modeling and dynamic soil properties in soil inventory and how can it help define ecological processes.

Can we adjust soil taxonomy to reflect ecological processes? Taxonomy based upon biotic and abiotic response relationships vs. pedogenic/morphologic.

ESD manual

MOU driven

Contains 2 types of classifications

Based upon vegetation

Based upon soil properties and state and transition of vegetation

What is appropriate to identify ecological processes? Top down or bottom up? Can we have both?

Recommendations

Definitions need to be shared current multi-agency ecological definitions and concepts with NCSS cooperators including:

Ecological Type

Ecological Site

Ecological Unit Inventory

Ecological Process

Explanation of differences between state and transition and PNV/seral stages

Provide Direction for correlating FS Ecological Types and Multi-agency Ecological Sites

Determine if FS plant classifications can be used as the vegetation component for Ecological Sites Descriptions on other lands

Training Needs – what are they?

Things to include at the Western NCSS 2008 Conference

Presentations on ESD Manual

Presentations on TEUI

Determine the difference between rangeland and forestland ecological information needs.

Show how ESD in conjunction with state and transition can be used to define management objectives and how to monitor to determine if you are moving toward desired resource condition

Review 2003 Ecological Principles and Interpretations papers and determine if anything has changed.

**Change National Cooperative Soil Survey (NCSS) to National Integrated
Cooperative Ecological Unit Survey (NICEUS) (just kidding)**